

Message Text

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ORIGIN MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY PM/MC:WBROBINSON:SAG

APPROVED BY PM/MC - WBROBINSON

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R 042052Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILL, TH

SUBJECT: HANDGUN EXPORTS TO THAILAND

REFERENCE: (A) BANGKOK 16474 (15 OCT 74)

(B) BANGKOK 11644 (18 JUN 75)

1. WE HAVE AGAIN REVIEWED SITUATION RE EXPORT OF HANDGUNS TO THAILAND FOR COMMERCIAL RESALE IN LIGHT EXTENDED PREVIOUS EXCHANGES WITH EMBASSY INVOLVING REFTELS. WHILE WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH POSITION TAKEN BY EMBASSY AND RECOGNIZE THAT EMBASSY IS MONITORING SITUATION CLOSELY, WE HAVE TIGHTENED UP PROCEDURES BY REQUIRING VALID LETTER ORDER, PRIOR TO ISSUANCE ANY LICENSE FOR EXPORT OF HANDGUNS TO ANY DESTINATION INCLUDING THAILAND FOR COMMERCIAL RESALE. WE HAVE CONSIDERED ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE EXPORTS TO A FIGURE BASED ON PRIOR YEARS OR SOME OTHER FORMULA. HOWEVER, THIS COULD PLACE US IN POSITION OF ASSIGNING QUOTAS TO MANUFACTURERS/EXPORTERS, AND POSSIBLY EVEN TO IMPORTERS, WHICH WOULD BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE NIGHTMARE. (APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE PERIOD 29-31 JULY TOTAL OVER 2300 HANDGUNS

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PLUS SOME AMMUNITION).

2. ACCORDINGLY, IN ORDER TO FULLFILL RESPONSIBILITY TO
CONTROL EXPORT OF MUNITIONS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, DEPART-

MENT WILL NOT CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT OF
HANDGUNS TO THAILAND UNLESS THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A FIRM
ORDER AND DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE RTG APPROVES, OR
HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFIC PROPOSED IMPORTATION.
DOCUMENTATION MAY CONSIST OF IMPORT LICENSE OR OTHER
OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION RTG MAY ELECT TO PROVIDE.

3. YOU MAY WISH TO ADVISE APPROPRIATE RTG OFFICIALS OF
THIS PROCEDURE SINCE IMPORTERS WILL BE SEEKING NECESSARY
DOCUMENTATION SHORTLY. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, SALES, POLICIES, GUN CONTROL, EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE183656
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBROBINSON:SAG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750269-0384
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750884/aaaacwfv.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN MC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 16474
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HANDGUN EXPORTS TO THAILAND
TAGS: MILI, TH, US
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006